

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN NEA-10

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/077 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

----- 020249

R 030107Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USCINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, "OLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR FEBRUARY 2,
1976:

Q. WHILE YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT NORTH VIETNAM, CAN YOU TELL
US ANYTHING ABOUT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN SYRIA THAT ARE
HELPING THE FORCES IN SOME WAY IN SYRIA? WHETHER OR NOT
THEY HELP THE PLO OR NOT, I DON'T KNOW. WHAT DO WE KNOW
ABOUT THIS?

A. NOT MUCH. WE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE REPORTS THAT WE
HAVE SEEN THAT THERE ARE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN SYRIA.

Q. ARE YOU UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE REPORTS? THE LAST TIME
WE ASKED ABOUT A REPORT REGARG SYRIA, IT WAS CLASSIFIED
"CONFIDENTIAL," THAT IS, YOUR RESPONSE WAS. IS THIS GOING
TO GO INTO THE SAME CATEGORY, BECAUSE WE ARE NOW TRYING TO
GET SYRIA TO LOOK OVER OUR WAY INSTEAD OF TOWARDS MOSCOW?

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A. I AM NOT SURE WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT.

Q. I MEAN THE APPROVAL OF THE SYRIAN ACTION IN LEBANON
INDICATED SOMETHING AND THE VOTE -- GOING ALONG WITH
SYRIA ON ITS MANDATE FOR UN FORCES ON THE BORDER WAS
ALSO AN INDICATION OF SOME KIND. SO I WAS JUST PUTTING
TWO AND TWO TOGETHER AND MAKING FOUR.

WILL YOU LOOK INTO THIS NORTH VIETNAMESE THING?

A. I WILL LOOK INTO IT, BUT I THINK THE ANSWER IS AS I HAVE GIVEN IT TO YOU HERE.

Q. WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

A. THAT WE CANNOT CONFIRM REPORTS THAT THERE ARE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN SYRIA.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM REPORTS THAT THERE ARE CUBANS IN SYRIA?

A. NO.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM REPORTS THERE ARE KOREANS IN SYRIA, WHICH IS WHAT I READ?

A. NO, I CANNOT CONFIRM THAT, NO.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHY YOU CAN'T CONFIRM? IS IT BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW OR BECAUSE YOU DON'T NORMALLY COMMENT ON SUCH THINGS?

A. I DO NOT KNOW; THEREFORE, I CANNOT CONFIRM. IF YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO LOOK INTO IT, I WILL SEE WHAT MORE I CAN GET ON IT.

Q. THERE IS ALSO A REPORT IN ONE OF THE PAPERS OVER THE WEEKEND ABOUT A SALE OF C-130'S TO EGYPT, WHICH WAS DENIED OVER THE WEEKEND. IS THERE ANYTHING NEW ON THAT?

A. I WOULD ONLY LIKE TO SAY THAT AT THE TIME OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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VISIT OF PRESIDENT SADAT, WE SAID THAT WE WOULD CONSULT THE CONGRESS BEFORE SELLING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT.

IT IS TRUE THAT THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT HAS TOLD US IT WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE C-130'S, BUT NO U.S. GOVERNMENT DECISION ON A MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPT WILL BE TAKEN WITHOUT THOROUGH CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS.

Q. WHEN DID EGYPT EXPRESS ITS INTEREST IN C-130'S--SUBSEQUENT TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT OR DURING HIS VISIT?

A. DISCUSSIONS ON THE EGYPTIAN DESIRE TO PURCHASE VARIOUS KINDS OF EQUIPMENT HAVE TAKEN PLACE FROM TIME TO TIME. I DO NOT KNOW THE PRECISE DATES.

Q. YOU SAID THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE C-130'S. DID THEY SAY THAT WHEN PRESIDENT SADAT WAS HERE AND COULD YOU FIND OUT, PLEASE?

A. I'LL FIND OUT, SURE.

Q. YOU REMEMBER A SPOKESMAN STANDING THERE ALL THROUGH THE VISIT AND SAID HE HAS NOT COME HERE WITH ANY SHOPPING LIST, DON'T YOU? THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID HE WAS NOT COMING WITH A SHOPPING LIST.

Q. THERE WAS A REPORT OVER THE WEEKEND THAT KING HUSSEIN HAD SUMMONED 15 FORMER MEMBERS OF THE JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT WHO LIVE ON THE WEST BANK TO A MEETING IN AMMAN THIS MORNING. DO WE HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A. THAT IS THE FIRST I HAVE HEARD OF THAT ONE.

Q. WHILE WE ARE ON KING HUSSEIN, WAS ANY U.S. MONEY USED TO RECRUIT GIRLS FOR KING HUSSEIN ON HIS VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES AS HAS LEAKED OUT OF THE HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT?

A. I CANNOT COMMENT ON THE REPORTS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN RELEASED OR MADE PUBLIC.
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Q. HOW ABOUT WOMEN?

A. IT WOULD BE THE SAME.

Q. THERE WAS A CONFLICT YESTERDAY IN RABIN'S APPEARANCE ON MEET THE PRESS IN WHICH HE WAS ASKED WHETHER OR NOT MR. SAUNDERS SPOKE FOR MR. KISSINGER AT THE TIME OF THE FAMOUS PRESENTATION TO THE CONGRESS ON THE PALESTINIAN MATTER.

THE QUESTION HERE ARISES AGAIN, DOES THE UNITED STATES CONSIDER THE PLO AT THE HEART OF THE MATTER OR RECOGNITION OF THE HEART OF ISRAEL IN THE MATTER.

A. THE HEART OF THE MATTER IN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION
GENERALLY?

Q. YES.

A. YOU KNOW WE HAVE SAID DOZENS OF TIMES THE LEGITIMATE

INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

Q. IS IT FIRST, SECOND, OR WHERE?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO A COUNTING GAME WITH YOU.

Q. THIS LEAVES THE WHOLE THING UP IN THE AIR AS TO WHICH WAY WE GO.

A. HOW CAN I ANSWER YOU? I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO A CONTEST WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL OVER WHICH COMES FIRST.

Q. WHAT DOES THE U.S. THINK, NOT WHAT MR. RABIN THINKS.

A. WITH REGARD TO WHAT?

Q. AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS UNCLASSIFIED

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PRIMARY OR RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL BY THE ARAB STATES IS PRIMARY.

Q. I DON'T THINK EITHER ONE COMES FIRST. WE HAVE SAID THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AND WE HAVE ALSO SAID THE PLO MUST RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL BEFORE ANY DECISION CAN ARISE TO DEAL WITH IT AS WELL AS THE OTHER CONDITIONS, OF COURSE. INGERSOLL

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